

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 3-6, 12, and 16 are canceled herein without prejudice or disclaimer, and claims 2, 7-11, 13-15, and 18 are amended. Upon entry of this amendment, claims 2, 7-11, 13-15, and 17-20 will be pending. Entry of this amendment and reconsideration of the rejections are respectfully requested.

No new matter has been introduced by this Amendment.

Claims 1, 3-6, 12, and 16-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Miwa et al. (EP 0 959 348). (Office action paragraph no. 3).

The rejection of claims 1, 3-6, 12 and 16 is moot in view of the cancellation of these claims without prejudice or disclaimer.

The rejection of claim 17 is respectfully traversed. Claim 17 depends from claim 2, which has been objected to below. Applicant has overcome the objection to claim 2, as discussed below.

Claims 2, 7-11, 13-15, and 18-20 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. (Office action paragraph no. 4)

The objection is overcome by the amendment to the claims 2, 7-11, 13-15 and 18 to be in independent form, making claims 2, 7-11, 13-15 and 18-20 independent of the rejected claims. Applicant submits that the amendments merely incorporate the limitations of the base and

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intervening claims and do not change the scope of the claims. Applicant further submits that claim 17, which depends from claim 2, should also be allowable as a result of this amendment.

If, for any reason, it is felt that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the Applicants' undersigned agent at the telephone number indicated below to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

In the event that this paper is not timely filed, the Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Please charge any fees for such an extension of time and any other fees which may be due with respect to this paper, to Deposit Account No. 01-2340.

Respectfully submitted,

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